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THE HORNS OF THE RHINO!

BEGINNING:

A GREAT
NEW ERA
IN THE EVER-CHANGING
LIFE OF THE WORLD'S
MOST AMAZING
WEB-SPINNER!

**SEE THE RETURN
OF BETTY BRANT,
AND THE STARTLING
RESULT THAT FOLLOWS**

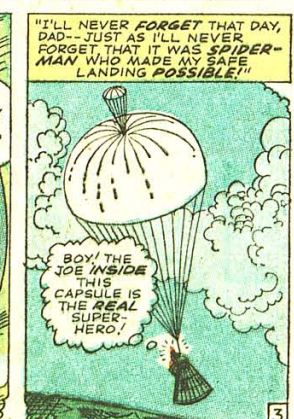
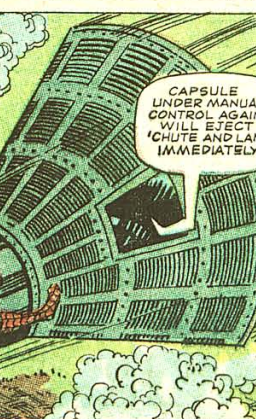
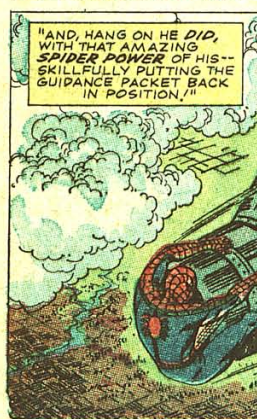
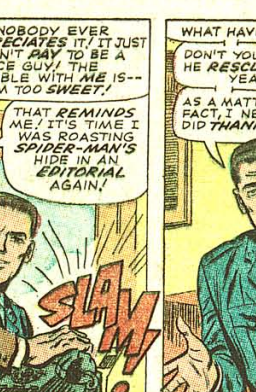
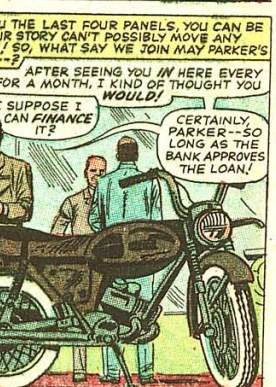
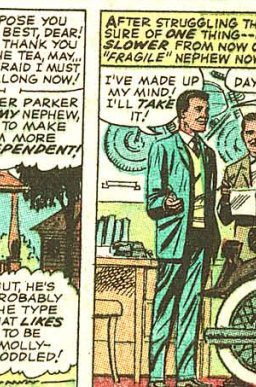
**SEE THE SURPRISE
APPEARANCE OF
J. JONAH JAMESON'S
ASTRONAUT SON!**

**SEE THE MOST
EXCITING NEW
PURCHASE PETE
EVER MADE!**

SEE SPIDEY FIGHT
THE RHINO--MOST
FEARSOME VILLAIN
OF ALL!

DESPITE THE EXTREME *MODESTY* FOR WHICH WE'RE SO JUSTLY FAMOUS, WE SIMPLY *HAVE* TO TELL YOU THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE *GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS* OF--

**STAN LEE, WRITER JOHN ROMITA, ARTIST
M. DEMEO, INKER ART SIMEK, LETTERER**

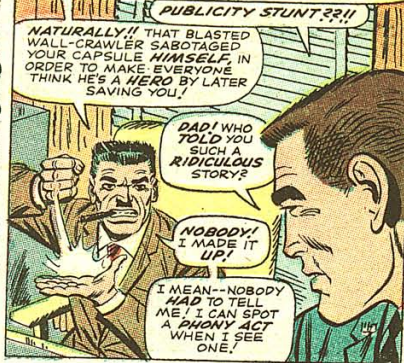


"UNFORTUNATELY, FOR REASONS BEST KNOWN TO HIMSELF, SPIDER-MAN FLED BEFORE ANYONE COULD FIND HIM--OR COULD THANK HIM!!"



"I'D BETTER MAKE MYSELF SCARCE NOW!"

"I NEVER THOUGHT MY OWN SON WOULD BE TAKEN IN BY SUCH A CHEAP PUBLICITY STUNT!"



"PUBLICITY STUNT?!!"

"NATURALLY!! THAT BLASTED WALL-CRAWLER SABOTAGED YOUR CAPSULE HIMSELF IN ORDER TO MAKE EVERYONE THINK HE'S A HERO BY LATER SAVING YOU!"

"DAD! WHO TOLD YOU SUCH A RIDICULOUS STORY?"

"NOBODY! I MADE IT UP!"

"I MEAN--NOBODY HAD TO TELL ME I CAN SPOT A PHONY ACT WHEN I SEE ONE!"



"WHY? WHY? WHY MUST I BE HAUNTED--HOUNDED--PLAGUED BY THAT SNEAKY, CREEPY, ROTTEN, NO-GOOD MASKED MENACE ALL MY LIFE?!!"

"WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE CATCH HIM--DEFEAT HIM--SQUASH HIM AGAINST A WALL--ANYTHING--SO LONG AS I GET HIM OUT OF MY LIFE?!"

"DO YOU REALIZE THAT IF NOT FOR ME--AND MY COURAGEOUS EDITORIALS--PEOPLE WOULD START MAKING A HERO OF THAT LOW-LIFE?"

"I HAVE TO KEEP REMINDING THEM--IN MY PAPER--THAT HE'S A COWARDLY CROOK--HIDING BEHIND A MASK TO ESCAPE JUSTICE!!"

"ETIP!"

"AND STILL THEY DOUBT ME, THERE ARE ACTUALLY LUNATICS WHO ADMIRE HIM!"



"DAD, DO YOU THINK YOU'RE REALLY BEING FAIR TO SPIDER-MAN?"

"FAIR?? WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING? HE'S THE ONE WHO ROBBED YOU OF YOUR FULL SHARE OF GLORY FROM THAT SPACE FLIGHT!"

"BUT THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW! I'VE MADE MANY FLIGHTS SINCE THEN! WHY NOT FORGET ABOUT SPIDER-MAN?"

"THAT'S THE BEST IDEA I'VE HEARD ALL DAY! TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, JOHN..."

"WELL, DAD--THE REASON I CAME HOME ON THIS SUDDEN LEAVE IS--A STRANGE THING HAPPENED ON MY LAST SPACE MISSION--"

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT STRANGE THING?"

"NASA DIDN'T RELEASE A SHRED OF INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FLIGHT!"

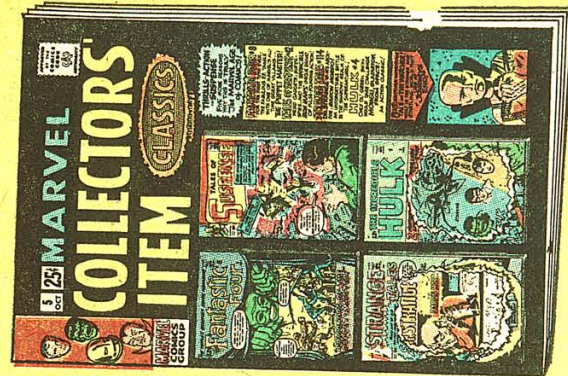


"I KNOW! COULDN'T!"

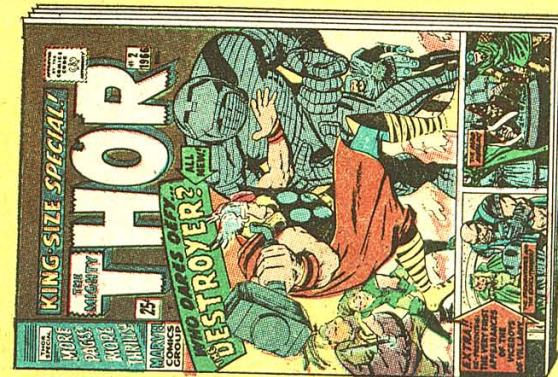
"C-COULDN'T?!!"

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth. No. 678 — Only 50c

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This tiny, feather weight radio operates without batteries, without tubes, but brings you years of listening pleasure. There's nothing to wear out, nothing to replace. No. 604 — \$2.98

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This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds. No. 701 — \$1.00

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WORMS

Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victims' faces? It's harmless. No. 612 — 15c

ONION GUM

Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like... like ONIONS! Its too funny! 12 like a pack. No. 281 — 20c

WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place it on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream at parties and gatherings. No. 247 — 50c

X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion \$1.00. Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties. No. FL7 — \$1.00

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It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce. No. 158 — 50c

JOY BUZZER

The most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation"! Absolutely harmless. No. 239 — Only 50c

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☐	Send C.O.D.		I will pay postman on delivery plus postage.

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Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than \$1.00.
Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.

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Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket—6-Power Magnifier. This exciting new 6-power wide field magnifier is cleverly concealed in a pen-sized pocket scope that lets you "peek" to your heart's content. So handy for Sporting Events, Counter-spying and Girl Watching. Also contains a 30-power full microscope to thrill any naturalist. Not a toy, but a real instrument. Full money back guarantee if not delighted. Only \$2.98. Item No. F59 — \$2.98

TRICK BLACK SOAP

Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless. No. 575 — Only 25c

THEY HAD TO MAKE SURE THE SPACE SPORES WOULDN'T BE HARMFUL TO EARTH, FIRST!

SPACE SPORES? WHAT SPACE SPORES?!!

SINCE THE INFORMATION HAS JUST BEEN DECLASSIFIED, I CAN TELL YOU NOW--!

"AT THE APOGEE OF MY ORBIT, AFTER COMPLETING MY SPACE WALK, WHEN I REENTERED THE CAPSULE, I FOUND THAT SOME MYSTERIOUS SPORES HAD DRIFTED INSIDE WITH ME."

"EVEN AFTER SPLASH-DOWN, THEY CLUNG TO MY SPACE SUIT, THEN LATER TO MY BODY!"

THEY SEEM HARMLESS ENOUGH, BUT--!

"I WAS SUBJECTED TO INTENSIVE TESTS FOR DAYS--AND EVERYTHING APPEARED TO CHECK OUT A-OKAY! THE SPORES THEMSELVES GREW WEAKER AND WEAKER, AND FINALLY JUST FADED AWAY!"

BUT, THEY MAY HAVE HAD AN EFFECT UPON HIM THAT WON'T SHOW UP UNTIL LATER!

HE CAN BE RELEASED NOW! THE SPORES ARE COMPLETELY GONE!

HE MUST BE KEPT UNDER GUARD FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS!

CERTAIN NATIONS WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO EXAMINE HIM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN!

"FROM THAT MOMENT ON, I'VE BEEN UNDER CONTINUAL SURVEILLANCE! ARMED AGENTS ACCOMPANY ME EVERYWHERE!"

HOW LONG WILL YOU FELLAS BE PLAYING NURSE-MAID TO ME?

UNTIL WE CAN BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THOSE SPORES DIDN'T AFFECT YOU IN ANY WAY, COLONEL!

BECAUSE, IF THEY DID, YOU'D BE A PRIZE CATCH FOR ANY HOSTILE NATION ON EARTH!

YOU SEE, DAD, THE SPACE AGENCY MEDICS GAINED INVALUABLE INFORMATION BY STUDYING THOSE SPORES AND MY REACTIONS TO THEM--INFORMATION THAT MAY GIVE US THE BOOST WE NEED IN THE SPACE RACE!

WHICH IS WHY THERE ARE TWO AGENTS OUTSIDE THIS DOOR RIGHT NOW--AND ANOTHER TEAM HERE TO RELIEVE THEM EVERY SIX HOURS!

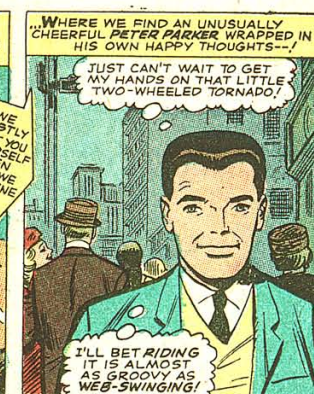
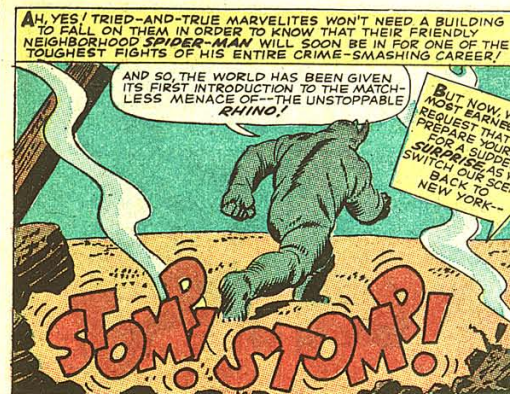
BUT, EVEN AS JONAH JAMESON IS STRUCK SPEECHLESS--FOR ONE OF THE FEW TIMES IN HIS LIFE--AN EVENT IS TRANSPIRING MANY MILES AWAY, AT OUR SOUTHERNMOST BORDER--AN EVENT WHICH IS DESTINED TO SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE LIVES, AND THE SAFETY, OF OUR COLORFUL LITTLE CAST OF CHARACTERS.

AT LAST! AFTER ALL THE LONG MONTHS OF WAITING--PREPARING--COUNTING EVERY MINUTE AND HOUR--IT'S FINALLY TIME--TIME FOR THE RHINO TO STRIKE!!

HEY, SAM! WHAT IN THE NAME OF CREATION DO YA CALL THAT?

I DUNNO! BUT WHAT-EVER IT IS, IT'S NO GETTING PAST THIS BORDER CHECK POINT TILL WE FIND OUT!

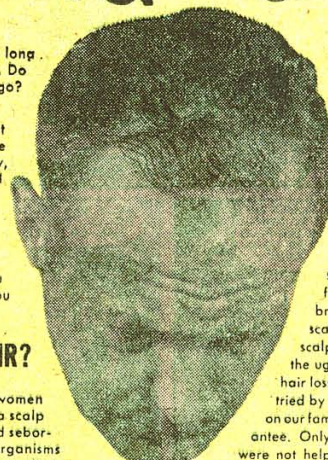
STOMP!





CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?



**DOUBLE MONEY
BACK GUARANTEE**

In seconds, Ward's Formula kills the three parasitic germ organisms retarding normal hair growth. This swift germicidal action has been proven in scientific tests by a world-famous testing laboratory (copy of laboratory report sent on request). Ward's removes infectious dandruff, stops scalp itch, brings hair-nourishing blood to the scalp, tends to normalize very dry or oily scalp. In brief Ward's Formula corrects early symptoms of seborrhea, stops the loss it causes. Ward's Formula has been used by more than 550,000 men and women. Famous Double-Your-Money-Back Guarantee 1.9% of these men and women helped by Ward's and asked for their money back. This is truly an amazing performance.

Why not join the men and women who have successfully ended their troubles? Treat your scalp with Ward's Formula Try it at our risk. In only 10 days you must see and feel the marked improvement in your scalp and hair. Your dandruff must be gone. Your scalp itch must stop. Your hair must look thicker, more attractive, and alive. Your excessive hair loss must stop. You must be completely satisfied—in only 10 days—with the improved condition of your scalp and hair, or simply return the unused portion for Double Your Money Back. So why delay? Delay may cost your hair.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc., 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1963

Doctors and hospitals can obtain professional samples of Ward's Formula on written request.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. Dept. 3908T
19 West 44 Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I must be completely satisfied in only 10 days or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name
Address
City Zone State
☐ Enclosed find \$2, send postpaid (check, cash, money order)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman \$2 plus 76 cents in postal charges (save the 76 cents by enclosing \$2)
☐ Send triple size for \$5. You save \$1.
Canadian, foreign, add 50 cents - No C.O.D.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?

CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: *staphylococcus albus*, *pytiorum ovale*, and *microbacillus*. These germs attack the sebaceous glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permanent damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

Here's the Proof!

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.

After using Ward's for only 12 days,
my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

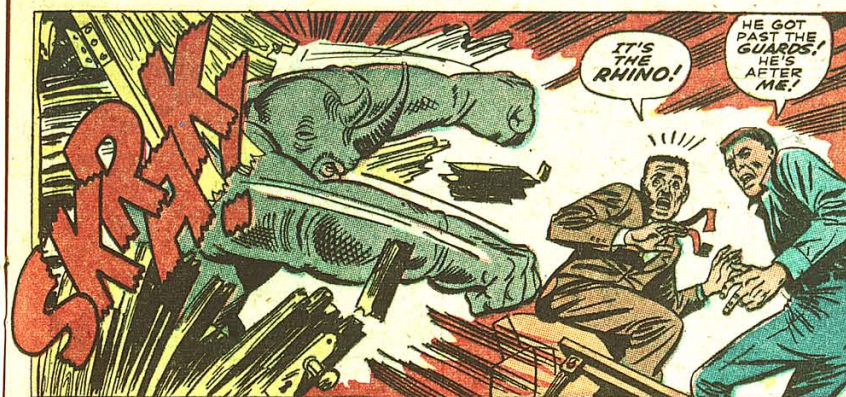
I am tickled to death with the re-
sults. In just two weeks' time—no
dandruff! W. T. W., Portola, Cal.

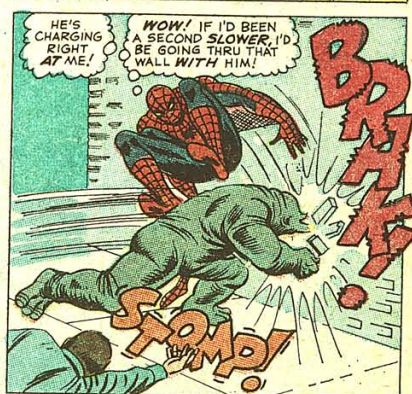
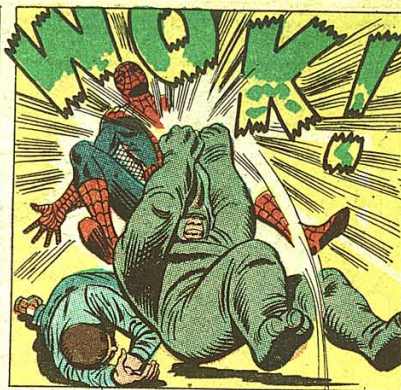
Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the *most* help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.







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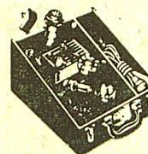
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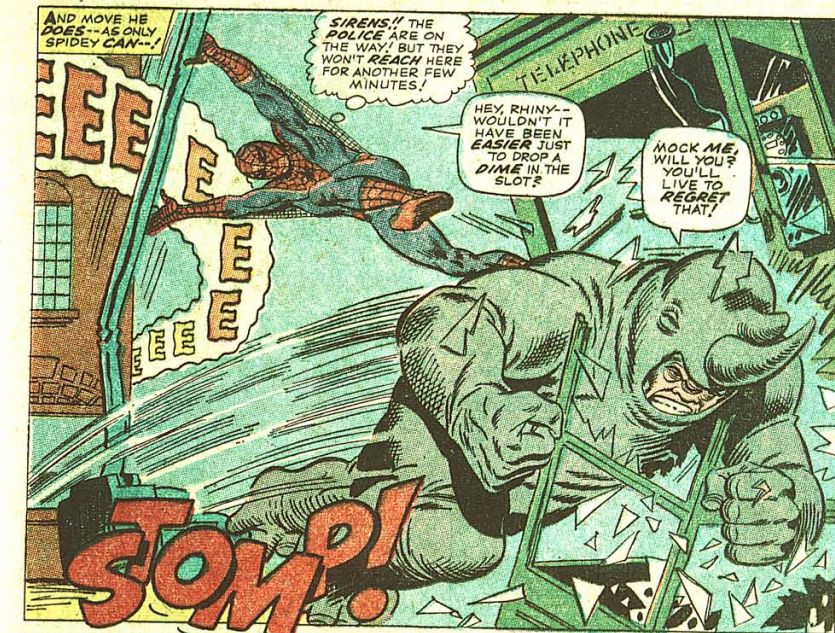
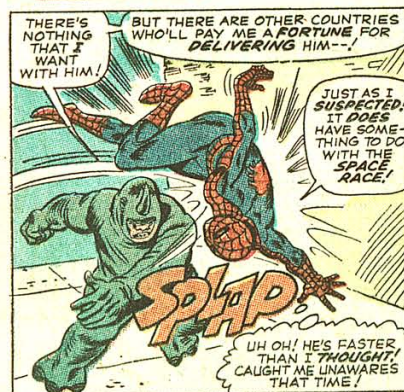


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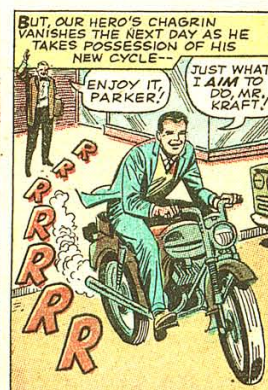
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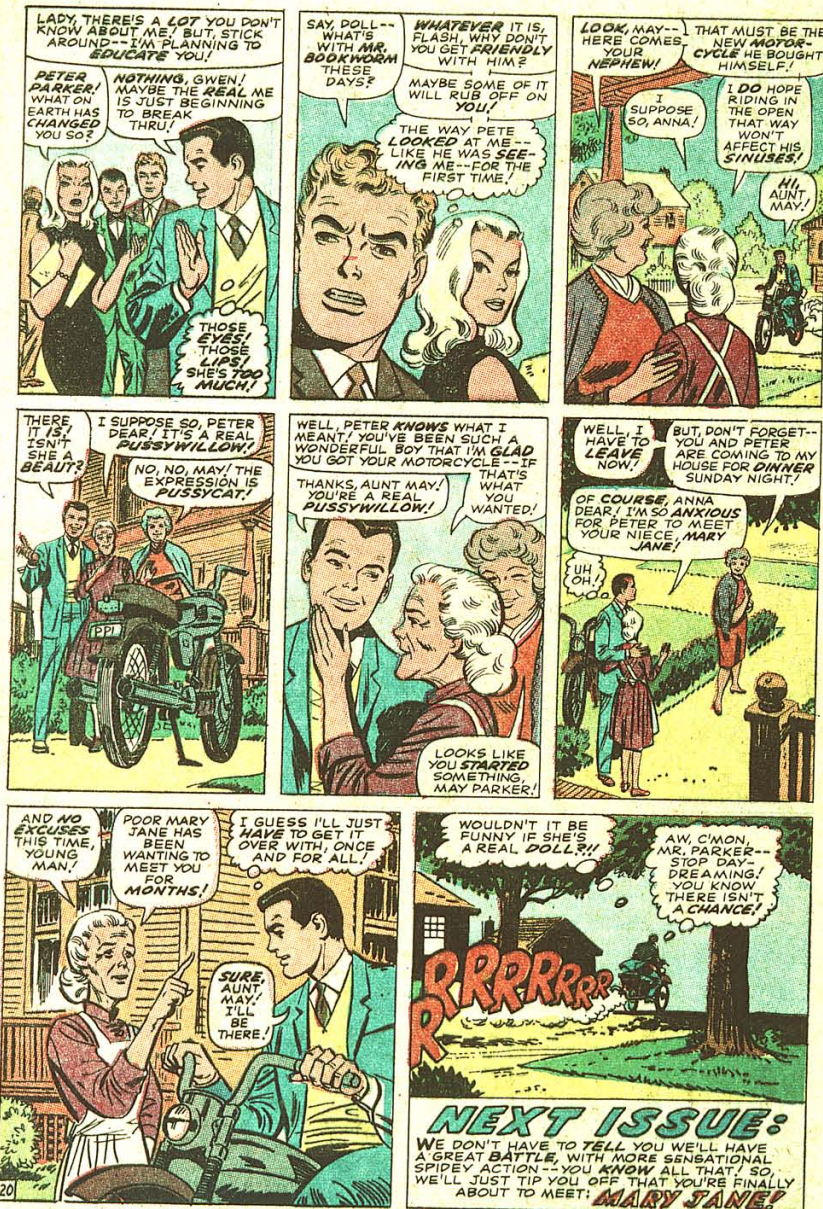
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NEWSWORTHY NOTES AND NUTTY NONSENSE FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BULLPEN!

We've a lot of exciting announcements for you this month, so let's not waste a second!

ITEM! Marvel super-heroes on TV! Here's the official scoop so far — our first stations will begin showing animated films of five — yep, FIVE — of our Marvel heroes in the middle of September. The characters to be featured will be: Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, Sub-Mariner, and the Hulk — all in full color! What's more, we'll use exactly the same art and stories which have made our mags the sensation of the nation! Production is under way right now, at the famous Grunty-Lawrence Animation Co. in Hollywood, and our Marvel super-heroes will not only be shown throughout the United States, but around the world as well. The list of cities is far too long to print in this space, so we suggest you contact your local TV station and inquire whether or not they'll be carrying the Marvel Comics Super-Hero show. (And if not, tell them you'll never talk to 'em again!)

ITEM! There are so many new Marvel products on sale everywhere, that we can't tell you about them fast enough to keep up with the supply, but we'll try, anyway. One thing we've got to ask you, though — please don't send money to US for these Marvel goodies — they can only be purchased in stores. In fact, even the gang in the bullpen have to go out and buy their own — when merry Marty Goodman unchains them, that is! Anyway, here's a partial list of some of the swingin' things to watch for right now — **PAPERBACK BOOKS** featuring the F.F., Spidey, Thor, and the Hulk — on sale in July. **PHONOGRAPH RECORD ALBUMS** packaged with actual Marvel mags — on sale Sept. **PLASTIC MODEL HOBBY KITS** of Captain America, Hulk, and Spider-Man — on sale in the low — on sale Sept. **HATS & HOODS** in the style of Spidey, Thor, Cap, and Iron Man — on sale Aug. **Spidey and Captain America COSTUMES** for Halloween, as well as play suits — on sale Sept. **Colorful 3 1/2" BUTTONS** of all characters — on sale Aug. **MINI-BOOKS** now on sale in gumball machines, and panicky PINS on sale in Aug. **BUBBLE GUM TRADING CARDS**, and **TOY RINGS** selling like crazy right now! **ACTION DOLL** utilizing Captain America and Sgt. Fury costumes — on sale June. **BOARD GAMES** and **JIG-SAW PUZZLES!** Captain America now — Spidey in Sept. **T-SHIRTS** and **SWEAT SHIRTS** galore, late in Aug. **FLICKER RINGS**, **CHARMS** and **STICKY LABELS** in vending machines only — on sale this summer. And, if all those glamorous goodies don't grab you, we're liable to auction off Irving Forbush himself!

ITEM! We've previously told you about the SGT. FURY and MILLIE THE MODEL (who she?) special king-size ishes which went on sale last month. So, it's time to clue you in about the next two twenty-five centers which are now available. First, there's the **THOR SPECIAL**, featuring a brand-new, grand-new action epic in which the indestructible Destroyer returns to challenge the combined might of all of Asgardians. You'll see mighty Thor and his fellow Asgardians, such as Volstagg, Balder, Hogun, and Fandral in one of the most sensational battles ever presented between two magazine covers! Plus a pair of book-length reprints of the two Thor sagas most requested during the past year! Next, there's our newest title, **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL!** Not only does it feature the

origin of Daredevil, and one of the earliest book-length smash hits of the Original Avengers, but it contains the biggest surprise of the decade! You'll see one of the rarest classics ever unveiled before your startled eyes — a feature-length battle between the ORIGINAL Human Torch and the ORIGINAL Sub-Mariner — as first presented more than twenty years ago! Also, just for kicks, you'll get a charge out of the first short-short story which ol' Stan ever had printed in a comic mag, written when he was seventeen! This one's a real howlin' heirloom!

ITEM! For you cats who can't live another minute without a subscription to a Marvel mag, or wanna send a gift to a friend (or even an enemy — we should worry), here's the scoop — they cost \$1.75 for twelve issues (which includes the postage, natch!) — or \$2.25 in Canada. Foreign subscriptions are \$3.25, and if you live on Mars, contact us for a special rate. Send your check or money order to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 625 Madison Ave., NYC 10022. And if you print your name and address nice and clear, nifty Nancy Murphy, our soulful subscription sweetie will recommend you for a two-toned no-prize!

ITEM! For years, fans have been asking to see a sample of King Kirby's inking, but Jolly Jack just hasn't had the time to put down his pencil and pick up a brush. However, just for kicks, he both penciled and inked the fight scene depicting Captain America and Iron Man in the cover of **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #4**. So, if you want a real not-soon-to-be-repeated treasure, latch onto a copy pronto!

ITEM! A personal, pleased-as-a-punch "Thank-you!" from Stan to the Percy Marvel Marching Society, Princeton University Chapter, for the wonderful ovation he received when he addressed the Whig-Clio-Sophistic Society on campus recently. Stan won't soon forget your warmth and enthusiasm, nor the many laughs he enjoyed with the grand and garrulous group at Blair Hall!

ITEM! How about Dandy Denny O'Neil? Our poor, distraught bullpen buddy has been feeling so neglected because his name isn't mentioned often enough in these bulletins (to suit HIM, that is!) that he left the following newspaper item on our desk: **WRITER MAKES HOME IN TRASH CAN.** Dennis O'Neil, young writer, today moved into an east side garbage can. Mr. O'Neil, 26, told reporters that he doesn't feel he should associate with human company. "After all, I'm not worthy to be in the Bullpen Bulletin," he explained, "so I'm obviously not worthy to live with folks." Denny boy, give up the garbage can and come home to us again! We love ya — honest!

ITEM! Remember we said we'd announce the result of our poll concerning our mentioning of Brand Echz? Well, we're more confused now than ever! All the mail has been checked and tabulated, and even divided — fifty percent in FAVOR of our roasting our competition every chance we get, and fifty percent OPPOSED to our carrying the batty bickering on any longer! It looks as though there's nothing left to do but play it by ear — we'll mention 'em when we feel so justified — and ignore 'em when we think they deserve it (like

most of the time)! So, till we meet next ish, face front — think nice thoughts — and remember those immortal words of Irving Forbush, which somehow seem to have slipped our minds! See ya, Marvelites!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #55: It had to happen! The Silver Surfer returns — to battle a fighting-mad, fanatically jealous Thing! "Nuff said!

AVENGERS #32: Mystery, surprises, and the most merciless new villain of all make this one of the Avengers' greatest! Watch for: The Sign of the Serpent!

X-MEN #24: The fate of the entire world may depend upon the X-Men — without the missing Marvel Girl — learning the secret of — the astonishing Locust!

DAREDEVIL #20: Looks like New Villains Month at Marvel! You — and DD — are about to meet the deadliest yet — in the strangest trial of all!

THOR #132: No mere words of ours can express the uncanny shock that awaits you as you follow mighty Thor into the unimaginable, unknown, unmentionable Black Galaxy!

STRANGE TALES #149: Don't dare miss the spine-chilling end of Shield's battle with Aim — not the fanatical start of Kaluu's attack on Dr. Strange!

SUSPENSE #82: Has Titanium Man beaten Iron Man at last? While you're wondering, wait'll you see Captain America face the chaotic challenge of the Adaptoid!

ASTONISH #84: Mighty Namor, the helpless slave of a hooded arch-fiend — while the rampaging Hulk spreads panic thru the streets of New York!

SGT. FURY #34: Have you ever wondered how Fury, Capt. Sawyer, and Dum Dum first got together? If so, this action-packed thriller is just for you!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #5: Greater than ever! The F.F.I. Man! Dr. Strange! The Incredible Hulk! The Watcher! Howzat?

MARVEL TALES #4: The most marvelous line-up yet — Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #4: More Golden Age Thrills with Captain America, plus the greatest fantasy epics of all!

THOR KING-SIZE SPECIAL #2: Brand new! The indestructible Destroyer returns to battle Volstagg, Hogun, Fandral, Balder, the team of Asgard's might — and finally — the God of Thunder himself! Never before such senses-staggering spectacle! Plus two of our most requested Thor reprints!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES KING-SIZE SPECIAL #1: The Origin of Daredevil! The Original Avengers vs. the Space Phantom! And, the biggest sensation of all — from Marvel's Golden Age — the Original Human Torch battles the Original Sub-Mariner! Plus: the first comic mag yarn smilin' Stan ever wrote! Hoo boy!

ANOTHER MARVEL MASTERPIECE NOW ON SALE!

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Timothy Barbour
Cincinnati, Ohio

Wayne Kilott
Oakland, Cal.
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Douglasville, Ga.
Timothy Boyle
Pittsburg, Pa.
Gordon Callaghan
Phila., Pa.

T. B. Childress
Chicago, Ill.
William Lee
San Francisco, Cal.
James Gan
San Francisco, Cal.
William Bartels
Rock Is., Ill.

Ronald Amadeo
Pittsfield, N. J.
Jeffrey Farquhar
Charlottesville, Va.
David Crank
Hayward, La.
Gary Jorgensen
Colonie, N. J.

Jan Gustafson
Houston, Tex.
Todd Clark
Carmichael, Pa.
Bill Gavelis
Detroit, Mich.
William Hurley
Gaithersburg, Md.

Bruce Haas
Baltimore, Md.
Daniel Cohen
Brooklyn, N. Y.
John Jamieson
Downers Grove, Ill.
Gil Levey
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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John,

I bought SPIDER-MAN #37 today, and I'm glad to see that not only is springtime creeping in on the meteorological scene, but also that refreshing changes have also come upon my favorite monthly mag. New mysterious characters, fighting conditions, and developments on the school scene made this the most original issue in a long time. Congratulations to Stan on an above-excellent story. Here are my comments on the new members of the cast: Mr. Osborn—the everyday identity of the Green Goblin; Professor Stromm—a good villain in this story, but doesn't look promising for a return bout; and Miss "Whatever-your-name-is"—J. J. J.'s new secretary—my E.S.P. sense flashed the name Mary Jane Watson into my mind the minute I saw her. Could it be? By the way, next to the Web-spinner, my top Marvel hero is the Watcher. Spider-Man and he have appeared with nearly everyone but each other. How about correcting this situation in a future issue? Martin Swiatkowski, Jr., 3854 W. 42nd St. Cleveland, Ohio

You know us, Marty—all you have to do is suggest something—and then, if we don't forget about it! By the way, we received M. S. Jr.'s letter quite a while ago, before the breathless word learned that Mr. Osborn was really Gobby—and Marty was one of the first to mention that fact. (There were a few dozen other mentions, as well, but naturally we can't print 'em all. However, those venerated names have been permanently inscribed upon the asbestos scroll which will one day be placed inside Marvel's time vault—whenever we get the time to get a time vault, that is.) Now where were we? Oh yeah—'nuff said!

Dear Stan and John,

SPIDER-MAN #38 was characteristically brilliant, and yet I was disappointed at the way you dumped on the protest marchers. It is unfortunately true that there are often a number of clods and politically naive schlemiels who frequent picket lines and social protest movements as a crutch for their own personal inadequacies. However, this fact does not necessarily detract from whatever issue the picket line is attempting to focus attention upon. The real point is precisely that issue, not the personal appearance or the boorish behavior of the protestors. Much in the manner of some politician who attacks civil rights workers on the basis of their dress and appearance, without speaking to the real issues of why they are there, you have painted a picture of student protest which focuses on the personalities of the picketers, not the reason for their picketing. If you had spoken to an issue, then the person of Peter Parker, you would at least have enabled your readers to form an opinion about that particular picket line, but as it is, you have engaged in an anti-intellectual exercise in name-calling, which considerably lowers the level of sophistication of which opinions are formed. And "opinions" of this nature come very close to unreasoning prejudice. Perhaps protests about bureaucratic inefficiency and sluggishness, or the war in Viet Nam, are not "right" or "fair," but this is not the question here. We ought to be able to form our ideas on the

basis of an objective evaluation of the facts and issues at hand, and try to escape as much as possible from personal value judgments about those who are raising these facts and issues. I agree with you when you say that Marvel heroes ought not be stalwart paragons of various political ideologies, but it would be reproachful to say the least if Spider-Man were to attack Communism, for example, on the basis of his judgment that Communists are ugly, or wear blue jeans or T-shirts. If you can't speak to the issue, then don't speak at all. 'Nuff said!

Bill Fletcher, George Washington Univ. S.D.S.
1262 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.

Hooo boy! Chalk up another king-sized, blushing bull-pen blunder! We never in a million years thought anyone was gonna take our silly protest-marchers sequence seriously! We just tossed it in for a little comedy relief—or so we thought! We're the last guys in the world to be opposed to lawful demonstrations, Billy! And we weren't trying to poke fun at their attire or appearance—not even remotely. As for addressing ourselves to the issues—we were too busy trying to figure out how to wrap up the yarn so it would tie in with future plots. We wouldn't have spotted an issue if we'd stumbled over one! Read it again, fella, and see if you didn't possibly attach too much importance to a relatively innocuous sequence. Or, in the immortal words of J. Jonah Jameson—when I tell a joke, how come nobody laughs?

Dear Stan and John,

Recently, while reading a magazine called *Penn Comment*, which is published on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, I came upon an advertisement which was about your publications. I want to know, seriously, if your company really put the ad in that magazine. Did you? You would be very surprised by the popularity of your publications on campus. All of my fraternity buddies read SPIDER-MAN. If you did place that ad, I commend you on your sophisticated outlook on our culture and your recognizing the deep feelings of a college student and how he finally finds an escape thru you and your comics. They provide enjoyment and humor; and, most of all, they help relax an overworked and tense student. I feel that your comics act as a tranquilizer. This is definitely the Marvel Age of Comics. May you continue your fine work and keep on producing your Marvel masterpieces.

Michael Kates, 8404 Cobden Rd.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Thanks, Mike. Yep, 'twas we who put the ad you mentioned in your college mag. We might also say that a lot of other sharp-eyed Marvelites commented on the same ad. However, we want to caution you about comparing our peerless periodicals with tranquilizers—or else, before you know it, it might be impossible to read one without a prescription!

Dear Stan and John,

We'd all like to say "Hi, guys!" Keep up your great issues. All the G.I.'s here avidly read Marvel Comics. You

name it—we read it, as long as it's Marvel! Forget those other newsstand non-entities. No other comics in the world bring the action, excitement, and thrills that your issues bring us. We've just finished SPIDER-MAN #38 and the general comment is: Wow! Does Spidey ever get mixed up with characters! Joe Smith, no less! But the biggest question in our minds is every issue, how happened to Betty Brant? We're jumping for what has happened to our answer will be in one. But, alas, so far, nothing. Also, when are Gwen and Peter going to get together instead of just thinking out loud? Hmmm! I know you must have something planned, so how about letting us in on it? Not to be diverted, but what about ol' Daredevil and Karen? Now that Foggy is deceiving Karen, what chance has Matt? Well, guess we'll close for now!

SP/5 Dick Hillberg & Sammy, Joe, Bob, Ray,
Al, Hack, Mac, Tres, Jim, George,
Survey Section Hq Btry 2/73 Artillery
APO, New York, N.Y. 09165

You should have addressed your letter "Dear Abby—"! Anyway, Dick—any of the rest of you shell-shin'g' stalwarts—you probably know by now that Peter and Betty have gone pfft, while Matt Murdock is far more of a Daredevil when facing villains than he is where kittenish Karen is concerned! But, just because we don't want your mind on our rollickin' romantic problems when you oughta be talkin' trajectory, we're sending you a couple of advance issues of Spidey and DD so you and your buddies won't have to worry for a while. Take care of yourselves, fellas—



Dear Stan and John,

Spidey mags have been my favorite for a long time, and I have written many comments to you about the great Marvel mags. But none of my letters has ever been printed. I wonder if you could give out some ideas as to how I might have a better chance of getting my letters printed. I think other Marvel maniacs would appreciate it, too! To acknowledge that I have read the latest ish about old Web-head, I want to congratulate you on the great work you did on SPIDER-MAN #38. Now I have some ideas which will probably increase your sales. Make the covers for Spidey's eyes on the costume darker, enclose a postcard in every letters section so Marvelites can get a letter off to you faster, and give the people in SPIDEY more modern clothes and hair styles.

Kevin Grothe, Rt. #1, Box 37
Moose Lake, Minn. 55767

There's really no trick way to get a letter printed in our mags, Key—we just grab 'em as we see 'em, trying to select the most interesting, amusing, controversial, or provocative comments. You've probably already noticed the change (for the better, we trust!) in Spidey's apparel, as well as that of his friends and associates. With a fashion plate like Jazzy Johnny in the artistic driver's seat, you'll even see the best-dressed villains around! But, as for putting post cards in every letters page—sheesh! If you multiply the cost of a p.c. by about a half million copies each month (that's a half-million of Spidey alone—not to mention our other tinninabulating titles), even Irving Forbush couldn't afford it!

Dear Stan and John,

My wife and I both agree that Spider-Man's troubles with his dual identity—his struggles to keep it secret, etc.—are boring. We think the time has come for you to decide: Shall Spider-Man share his secret identity with one other person, or even several other people? Because the

alternative is death! By that, I mean that the moment I can predict with certainty what will be in an issue before I read it, Spidey will no longer be interesting. Now, I like the art in Marvel Comics because it is movement. But what you need is movement of character, i.e., development. If you want Peter to live, let him be as other human beings. Is he a man? Is he honest? Does he know his way? Can he love? Look, that's what we're all facing: in this world, can we marry, bring up good children, make a new age? I see this as Spider-Man's potential—vast potential, if you don't stultify him. Let him have vision! Talk to young people, in their early 20's, see how they react to these ideas. Look at Bob Dylan's reach. They say it takes all kinds of people to make a world... Why not let Spider-Man pick up on different villains, trying to get on good terms with them? He might deep excitement in learning from... others? A villain, finally, is just somebody else! The question of life: can I make it with somebody else? Can Spider-Man? Let him. Make him. All alone, adventures get pretty cold. Help poor Peter Parker be all warm inside.

Doug Palmer, 2920 Harper St.
Berkeley, Calif.

Doug, your masterful missive is virtually beyond our poor powers of philosophical prognostication. We think we know what you're getting at. We think you know what you're getting at. But, we also have a sneaking suspicion that there are pro-villain undertones seeping thru. (Which is okay with us—after a few issues, we sometimes end up liking our baddies as much as our goodies!) However, we'd be inclined to guess that the vast majority of Marveldom would prefer to see Spidey whale the tar out of a super-menace than defeat him in a soul-stirring debate. As for the rest of your message, there's no argument. We, too, believe in realism—we, too, want him to be with it. If it hasn't been coming across in our yarns, it's only because we're merely fallible mortals—but, we shall rise to strive anew—so say we all! And regards to the missus.

Dear Stan,

You are a diabolical fiend, a demon! You are probably wondering how I saw through your clever, well-kept secret. You let it leak out yourself when you signed your name as "Smilin' Stan". How could anyone smile when he sees all the troubles and worries that Spider-Man has? My conclusion is that you take pleasure in trying to hurt Spidey! It is only through his courage, cunning, and spider-sense that he can escape the traps you lay for him. Each month you try to outwit our hero, but, luckily for us loyal fans, you always lose. I think it's about time we all rose up in a body, have you fired, and get a competent, intelligent, good-looking, poor-but-honest Spider-Man cheerer to take your place. I'm sure that I could rise to the occasion with my usual good grace and modesty and take the job. By the time this revolution takes effect, say about a year from now, I'll be qualified to take over and give Spidey the break he deserves. Not 'nuff said!

Barbara Flynn, Big Oak Circle
Stamford, Conn.

Aw gee, Babs! You've got it all wrong! Smiley doesn't take pleasure in trying to hurt our ol' wall-crawler. It's just the opposite! Our problem really is—with his far-out, frenetic imagination, Stan the Man is beginning to think he is Spidey! He keeps shooting rubber bands at good-natured Ring-A-Ding all day, calling it a wondrous web-slinging attack! Anyway, things will probably start looking up for Pety pretty soon—and then watch the complaints come pouring in from fans who miss our old-time suffering saga!

NEXT ISH: You guessed it! We're not quite finished with Jonah's son yet! Not by a long shot! You'll be hearing quite a bit more about those mysterious spores which he encountered while orbiting in space. And don't be too surprised if the fantastic events that develop involve a certain friendly neighborhood Spider-Man! So, get here early for your first sight of the exquisitely elusive Mary Jane Watson, and for a whole kaboodle of startling situations and amazing action that'll really grab you! That's SPIDEY #42—the mag for people who avoid the ordinary! See ya, tiger!



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